

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/698,696

Examiner

Kevin Quarterman

Applicant(s)

CURTIN ET AL.

Art Unit

2879

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 27 June 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,6,7,10-17,22,26-32,35-40,84,97-99,114,266,281,289,310,319 and 369-379.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment and remarks received on 27 June 2006 have been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed 30 June 2006 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1), which requires the following: (1) a list of all patents, publications, applications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office; (2) U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications listed in a section separately from citations of other documents; (3) the application number of the application in which the information disclosure statement is being submitted on each page of the list; (4) a column that provides a blank space next to each document to be considered, for the examiner's initials; and (5) a heading that clearly indicates that the list is an information disclosure statement. The information disclosure statement has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-3, 6-7, 10-17, 22, 26-32, 35-40, 84, 97-99, 114, 266, 281, 289, 310, 319, and 369-379 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The Examiner's reasons for the allowance of claims previously allowed are repeated in this office action.

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5. Regarding independent claim 1, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a structure comprising, in addition to other limitations of the claim, a getter region overlying at least part of a light-blocking region and extending no more than partially laterally across a light-emissive region, and a perforated electrically non-insulating layer overlying at least part of the getter region or/and at least part of the light-emissive region. Due to their dependency upon independent claim 1, claims 2-3, 6-7, 10-17, 22, and 26-30 are also allowable.

6. Regarding independent claim 31, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a structure comprising, in addition to other limitations of the claim, an electrically non-insulating layer overlying at least part of a light-blocking region, and a getter region overlying at least part of the non-insulating layer above at least part of the light-blocking region, an opening extending largely through the getter region generally laterally where the light-emissive region overlies a plate. Due to their dependency upon independent claim 31, claims 32, 35-40, and 266 are also allowable.

7. Regarding independent claim 84, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a structure comprising, in addition to other limitations of the claim, a getter region overlying a plate at least partially between a consecutive pair of control electrodes and contacting, or connected by directly underlying material to, the plate. Due to their dependency upon independent claim 84, claims 97-98 and 369-370 are also allowable.

8. Regarding independent claim 99, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a structure comprising, in addition to other limitations of the claim, a getter

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region overlying a plate, the getter region situated at least partially in a plurality of primary openings in a raised section or/and exposed through the primary openings to space above the raised section. Due to their dependency upon independent claim 99, claims 371-375 are also allowable.

9. Regarding independent claim 114, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a structure comprising, in addition to other limitations of the claim, a getter region overlying at least part of a dielectric layer and contacting, or connected by directly underlying electrically non-insulating material to, the dielectric layer, at least part of the getter region situated above a location between a pair of the openings in the dielectric layer. Due to their dependency upon independent claim 114, claims 281 and 376-379 are also allowable.

10. Regarding independent claim 289, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a structure comprising, in addition to other limitations of the claim, a multiplicity of openings extending through a light-blocking region; a like multiplicity of laterally separated light-emissive regions overlying a plate; a getter region overlying at least part of the light-blocking region and extending no more than partially laterally across each light-emissive region; and a perforated electrically non-insulating layer overlying at least part of the getter region or/and at least part of each light-emissive region.

11. Regarding independent claim 310, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a structure comprising, in addition to other limitations of the claim, a multiplicity of openings extending largely through a light-blocking region; a like

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multiplicity of laterally separated light-emissive regions overlying a plate, each light-emissive region situated at least partially in a different corresponding one of the openings in the light-blocking region; an electrically non-insulating layer overlying at least part of the light-blocking region; and a getter region overlying at least part of the non-insulating layer above the light-blocking region, a like multiplicity of openings extending largely through the getter region respectively generally laterally where the light-emissive regions overlie the plate.

12. Regarding independent claim 319, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a structure comprising, in addition to other limitations of the claim, a multiplicity of laterally separated electron-emissive regions overlying a plate; a support region overlying the plate; and a getter region overlying at least part of the support region, a multiplicity of composite openings extending through the getter and support regions generally laterally where the electron-emissive regions overlie the plate, each composite opening comprising an opening through the getter region and an opening through the support region.

13. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Quarterman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2461. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH (7-5:30).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kevin Quarterman
Examiner
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kq 

15 September 2006


JOSEPH WILLIAMS
PRIMARY EXAMINER